

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 CU-02 RSC-01 USIA-06 /022 W

----- 115734

R 311838Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9202

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 0251

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, HA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE GOH DIPLOMATIC ARCHIVES

REF: PAUP 2515

1. FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNDER SECRETARY DORCELY SAID THAT PRESIDENT DUVALIER HAD TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER, AND HAD ORDERED INTERIOR SECRETARY BLANCHET TO MAKE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHEN HE WILL BE ABLE TO REPORT ANY RESULTS TO THIS EMBASSY.

2. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SOMETHING HAS LONG BEEN AMISS AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WHERE AMONG OTHER THINGS HAITI'S DIPLOMATIC ARCHIVES ARE STORED. LAST YEAR A SCANDAL DEVELOPED AT THE ARCHIVES WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT MANY IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS, ESPECIALLY BIRTH, DEATH, AND MARRIAGE RECORDS WERE MISSING, AND THAT TOTAL ILLITERATES OCCUPIED RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS. MOREOVER, LAUORE ST.-JUSTE, THE ARCHIVES' DIRECTOR GENERAL, WENT TO THE US AND REFUSED TO HEED JUSTICE SECRETARY JEANTY'S REPEATED PLEAS TO RETURN HOME TO EXPLAIN AND RECTIFY THE CONFUSED STATE OF AFFAIRS. PRESIDENT DUVALIER ACCORDINGLY APPOINTED A SPECIAL NATIONAL ARCHIVES INVESTIGATION COMMISSION, AND THE PRESS LATER REPORTED THAT THE COMMISSION CONFIRMED THAT THE ARCHIVES WERE INDEED IN A DEPLORABLE STATE OF DISARRAY. ONE OF THE COMMISSION'S MEMBERS, HENOCK TROUILLOT, WAS THEN INSTALLED ON OCT. 3, 1974 AS THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL, VICE THE STILL MISSING ST.-JUSTE. TROUILLOT IS A LOCALLY WELL-KNOWN HISTORIAN, NEWSMAN, AND PROFESSOR AT THE ECOLE NORMALE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY. HE PLEDGED TO RE-

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STORE ORDER FROM CHAOS, AND TO HIRE A COMPETENT AND HONEST STAFF.

THE SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER "LE NOUVEAU MONDE" ON JAN. 11 EDITORIALIZED THAT THE PRESIDENT INTENDED THE REVIVED ARCHIVES TO RIVAL COMPARABLE INSTITUTIONS WORLD WIDE, AND REVIEWED SOME RECENT PROGRESS IN OVERCOMING PAST ABUSES AND DEFICIENCIES.

3. WE NOT THAT THE EXILE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER "HAITI-OBSERVATEUR" ENLARGED UPON THIS STORY IN ITS JAN. 10-17, 1975 EDITION BY ADDING THAT IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS FROM THE ARCHIVES WERE ALLEGEDLY BEING SOLD IN NEW YORK, CANADA, AND EUROPE BY PERSONS UNKNOWN. SINCE EUGENE MAXIMILLIEN IS NOW IN THIS CONNECTION A PERSON KNOWN TO DUVALIER, BLANCHET AND JEANTY, WE SUSPECT THAT HE IS IN A SPOT OF TROUBLE.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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